Sermon Notes, November 12, 2017—Veterans Day Weekend

This weekend we celebrate Veteran’s Day. We remember by

* Waving flags
* Having parades
* Giving gunfire salutes
* Taking time off from work

Why do we do it?

* We’re grateful to those who served
* We remember their sacrifice (some of life itself)
  + We can be comforted that they did not sacrifice in vain
  + We can have the hope that St. Paul gives in I Thessalonians that they will rise that we will join them in the air at the second coming.
* We’re grateful for our country
  + We remind ourselves how lucky we are
  + We remember our heritage as Americans
* We are challenged to be loyal to the United States regardless of how we feel about its leadership

Joshua was doing sort of the same thing in Shechem

* He gathered everyone together and reminded them of who they were
* He challenged them to live up to their heritage by serving only the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel)
* He reminded them of what God had done for them
* There was a sense of urgency in his message—they were about to cross into new territory and carry their heritage with them
* He asked them to commit to their God and forsake all other loyalties and they responded

Just as Joshua and the Children of Israel stood on a threshold of a new life, so we, too are faced with a challenge.

* Will we forsake all other gods as the people of Israel promised to do?
* The time is short. We never know when our clock will run out, as individuals, congregations, communities, countries and our world.
* Just as Jesus warned about being prepared for the coming of the bridegroom, we need to make sure we have enough fuel for the journey.